

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN AUGUST 2002

Natural soda ash production in August was 895,000 metric tons, slightly lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 226,000 tons, slightly lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August was 1.26 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in July was 543,000 tons, 13% higher than the July 2001 level of 481,000 tons. Exports

and imports of soda ash in July 2002 were 364,000 tons and 779 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through July 2002, compared with those of 2001, were as follows: production was 1% lower, imports 80% lower, exports 3% lower, ending stocks 18% lower, and apparent consumption 1% higher.

**The first and second quarter end-use data are included in Table 6 of this report.**

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
2001:			
July	879	278	987
August	869	221	1,100
September	814	248	1,290
October	880	217	1,430
November	852	162	1,360
December	870	226	1,420
Total (January-August)	6,930	XX	9,860
Year total	10,300	XX	15,400
2002:			
January	856	262	1,430
February	775	245	1,210
March	885	244	1,370
April	829	202	1,300
May	917	212	1,330
June	842	236	1,130
July	898	227	956
August	895	226	1,260
Total	6,900	XX	9,970

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN JULY 2002 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	66,800	\$7,380	\$110
Japan	50,500	5,830	115
Canada	42,400	3,300	78
China	33,000	2,720	83
Brazil	32,900	4,950	150
Korea, Republic of	18,600	2,050	110
Venezuela	14,800	2,050	139
Taiwan	14,000	1,530	109
Malaysia	13,500	1,800	133
Colombia	12,100	2,120	175
Other	65,800	8,600	131
Total	364,000	42,300	116

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ August 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2002 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Total	% of total
Argentina	8,760	--	9,270	27,500	14,400	13,000	9,980	82,900	3
Australia	7,020	7,010	9,660	13,200	7,040	--	7,010	50,900	2
Belgium	25,000	--	--	35,300	25,000	--	--	85,300	4
Brazil	25,800	--	25,800	10,000	52,600	--	32,900	147,000	6
Canada	42,700	31,700	42,500	38,000	32,600	40,200	42,400	270,000	11
Chile	--	20,800	--	19,600	28,500	24,500	--	93,400	4
China	10,500	6,500	25,000	17,300	9,500	55,100	33,000	157,000	7
Colombia	--	11,700	11,500	10,800	10,800	--	12,100	57,000	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	3,000	3,000	--	6,000	(3/)
Ecuador	--	--	4,370	--	--	--	6,500	10,900	(3/)
Finland	--	17	--	--	--	--	--	17	(3/)
France	--	7,500	10,000	--	10,000	--	7,550	35,100	1
Germany	19	--	--	19	--	--	--	38	(3/)
Guatemala	--	--	--	5,000	3,500	3,000	--	11,500	(3/)
Indonesia	21,500	19,000	19,000	23,000	19,000	16,500	--	118,000	5
Italy	--	--	--	10,100	--	--	--	10,100	(3/)
Japan	46,800	58,100	32,300	33,600	20,600	27,600	50,500	269,000	11
Korea, Republic of	14,000	19,200	12,500	15,200	14,600	14,300	18,600	108,000	5
Malaysia	--	5,000	19,900	--	16,000	4,000	13,500	58,400	2
Mexico	56,900	39,800	37,300	27,500	50,000	61,200	66,800	340,000	14
New Zealand	--	4,970	--	--	7,520	--	--	12,500	1
Nigeria	--	3,890	--	--	--	--	--	3,890	(3/)
Panama	--	--	--	1,990	20	--	2,000	4,010	(3/)
Peru	--	2,300	--	2,000	3,500	2,000	--	9,800	(3/)
Philippines	8,700	--	9,000	9,000	--	7,200	10,000	43,900	2
Portugal	8,280	--	--	--	--	7,460	--	15,700	1
Saudi Arabia	--	14,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	10,000	--	62,000	3
South Africa	--	--	--	--	6,070	6,070	--	12,100	1
Spain	5,000	14,100	--	--	--	--	11,900	31,000	1
Taiwan	20,000	10,000	10,500	10,200	17,000	13,200	14,000	94,900	4
Thailand	11,100	10,200	10,000	11,300	11,200	11,200	10,900	75,900	3
Trinidad and Tobago	2,820	--	--	--	--	2,800	--	5,620	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	7,000	4,000	--	7,000	--	18,000	1
United Kingdom	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	3	(3/)
Venezuela	17,100	--	26,100	19,900	9,830	--	14,800	87,800	4
Vietnam	--	--	7,000	--	--	--	--	7,000	(3/)
Total	332,000	286,000	343,000	357,000	384,000	329,000	364,000	2,400,000	100

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ August 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/ 2/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)
2001:		
July	1,270	\$162
August	1,590	193
September	1,800	239
October	1,350	186
November	788	114
December	474	82
Total (January-July)	27,400	3,250
Year total	33,400	4,060
2002:		
January	746	130
February	436	128
March	875	177
April	1,110	221
May	991	216
June	639	118
July	779	181
Total	5,580	1,170

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ August 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
2001:						
July	879,000	1,270	428,000	--	28,400	481,000
August	869,000	1,590	367,000	--	56,700	561,000
September	814,000	1,800	297,000	26,600	--	492,000
October	880,000	1,350	320,000	--	31,000	593,000
November	852,000	788	381,000	--	54,700	527,000
December	870,000	474	250,000	64,000	--	556,000
Total (January-July)	6,060,000	27,400	2,480,000	33,400	--	3,580,000
Year total	10,300,000	33,400	4,090,000	--	18,400	6,300,000
2002:						
January	856,000	746	332,000	35,300	--	490,000
February	775,000	436	286,000	--	16,900	507,000
March	885,000	875	343,000	--	1,010	544,000
April	829,000	1,110	357,000	--	41,300	515,000
May	917,000	991	384,000	9,800	--	524,000
June	842,000	639	329,000	23,600	--	489,000
July	898,000	779	364,000	--	8,580	543,000
August	895,000	NA	NA	--	1,610	NA
January-July	6,000,000	5,580	2,400,000	947	--	3,610,000

NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.

TABLE 6  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE, BY QUARTERS 1/

(Metric tons)

SIC Code	End use	2001	2002		Total
		Half-year total	First quarter	Second quarter	
32	Glass:				
3221	Container	750,000	356,000	424,000	781,000
3211	Flat	557,000	262,000	286,000	548,000
3296	Fiber	122,000	62,800	67,800	131,000
3229	Other	116,000	52,400	64,500	117,000
	Total	1,550,000	733,000	843,000	1,580,000
281	Chemicals	828,000	415,000	415,000	829,000
284	Soaps and detergents	350,000	181,000	205,000	386,000
26	Pulp and paper	75,800	30,900	26,200	57,100
2899	Water treatment 2/	49,200	24,100	22,000	46,100
	Fluegas desulfurization	55,500	31,500	28,200	59,700
	Distributors	188,000	73,000	91,000	164,000
	Other	117,000	51,300	52,700	104,000
	Total domestic consumption 3/	3,210,000	1,540,000	1,680,000	3,220,000
	Exports 4/	1,720,000	846,000	898,000	1,740,000
	Canada	161,000	92,900	87,900	181,000
	Total industry sales 5/	4,930,000	2,390,000	2,580,000	4,970,000
	Total sales from plants	5,130,000	2,560,000	2,620,000	5,180,000
	Total production	5,180,000	2,520,000	2,590,000	5,100,000

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplant for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

3/ Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

4/ As reported by producers. Includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with that reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for the same periods.

5/ Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and for exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.